

Amendments to the Specification:

In the Specification, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 line 1, before the title.

In the Specification, please add the section heading and paragraph at page 1 line 4, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US2004/039250, filed November 19, 2004 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10354809.2 filed November 21, 2003 and US application No. 60/524,227 filed November 21, 2003, all of the applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the Specification, please add the section heading at page 1 line 4, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section, as follows:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

In the Specification, please add the section heading at page 1 line 11, as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

In the Specification, please add the section heading at page 2 line 27, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION—

In the Specification, please amend the paragraph at page 9 lines 12-26, as follows:

-- In a preferred embodiment the steps involving the capturing of the measurement variables through to the measurement of the installation status against the benchmark, that is to say the steps a) to d) according to the ~~claims 1~~, are performed much more frequently (by a factor of 3 at least) than the following method steps. In this way the installation operator always has an up-to-date benchmark, knows at any given time the current installation status in relation to the status of similar installations, and does not run the risk that the installation to be investigated is

being measured against an outdated yardstick. Many of the steps necessary for specifying a benchmark can also be carried out separately and largely independently of a status recording process at an installation. However, the aforementioned revision frequency is to be recommended to ensure the information is up-to-date.--

In the Specification, please add the section heading at page 14 line 5, as follows:
--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

In the Specification, please add the section heading at page 14 line 23, as follows:
--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

In the Specification, please amend the paragraph at page 15 lines 13-16, as follows:
-- Fig. 2 shows, in the form of a flowchart, the steps that were applied in the method according to the invention. The letters a) to f) attached to the symbols correspond in this respect to the method steps a) to f) of the ~~claims~~¹.--